

Medford Community Garden Commission
1/25/22

Present: Elise Boerges, Rebecca Stevenson, C.J. Clotaire, Syrah McGivern, Amanda Bowen, Lisa Risley, Liz White, Fred Laskey

Plant giveaway: Riz is willing to start tomato seedlings to be given away at Mystic Market and possibly elsewhere later in the spring. We will solicit other to contribute seedlings as well.

Food Security position: Syrah has resigned her position in the Board of Health. The vacancy has been approved and she will be involved in the selection process.

Andrews School garden: We have permission from the principal to take charge of this garden. Syrah has obtained a quote to rebuild the garden from Hedgewitch Horticulture. She has created an IOBY fundraising appeal to raise \$5000 for this project. The Medford Community Chorale has donated \$760 in matching funds to kick off the campaign. Two middle school students who have been propagating pollinator seedlings will be involved and may use one of the six beds. Syrah will publicize the fundraising campaign widely this week. The money will be funneled through the Friends account.

La Prise garden: Funding has been received from community development funds for the garden project; it has gone out to bid through the City and bids are due in mid-February. We hope to build it by the time the growing season has begun. Elise suggested that we plan to offer a Gardening 101 workshop for potential gardeners there and would plan to make it available to gardeners at all the MHA properties.

McNally expansion: The funds to expand McNally to eight beds and build a fence are moving through the approval process with CPA.

Parks and gardens: Amanda plans to solicit the mayor's support for building future gardens in parks. We don't know exactly why the garden idea was dropped from the Carr Park renovation. Elise volunteered to find out more about what feedback on the plan was received.

Wait List: It is possible that we will have to begin asking people to leave gardens this year as we have some applications that are 3 years old. Amanda will ask for Brian's help in interpreting the wait list so we verify how many overdue applications there are.

Web site: Anna Cornish, a very able intern in the Energy Office, helped us over the last six months by creating an online garden application, updating the page with a map of the gardens and adding a slide show. We may be back to doing this work ourselves and Rebecca declared herself ready to help!

Willis and Walkling: If there comes a time when these beds are less utilized by residents, we agreed that we might offer them to community members on the wait list. This would have to be on an annual basis in case interest among housing residents changed the following year.

Library dedication: Fred suggested that we consider a seedling exchange to take place during the library dedication which has been postponed until June. Riz will discuss with Barbara Kerr. This would be a nice opportunity for gardeners to interact, especially since the demise of the Medford Garden Club.

Solar flowers: Elise still has the supply of solar flowers we purchased as fundraisers and can make them available to anyone interested.